

Student Questions from State of the Institute Address

(Questions that were not answered during the Q & A period)

1. What is the perception that you want people to have of Georgia Tech 10 years from now?

In 10 years, I would like to be solidly positioned as one of the nation's top-ranked technological institutions—recognized by various constituencies for our excellent academic programs, premier faculty and students, useful research, and top-notch service to the state of Georgia and the nation.

2. Could you address the changes in the FASET program? Were there any specific reasons that brought about these changes? What does the future hold?

Although Georgia Tech continues to change each year, the FASET program has seen little or no change during the past seven years. As with all programs, there is vast room for improvement within FASET, and in the fall it was decided to investigate changes to the existing FASET program.

Recently, a committee composed of students, faculty, and members of the administration considered methods to improve FASET. Four possible models were discussed and one which leaves the basic FASET Orientation logistics in place (a two-day session in the summer) and adds a “welcome-week” type program at the beginning of fall quarter was chosen.

A Town Hall meeting will be held on January 13 at 5 p.m. in the Student Services Building, Room 117. At the forum, committee members will present the recommended FASET model to Tech students.

Next year's orientation program will undoubtedly be organized slightly differently than in year's past. For example, in addition to the new model, a 12-member Orientation Cabinet will aid in administration of the program. More important, however, will be the overall program changes—changes that will be made with input from all over the campus and changes designed to improve the process and increase satisfaction for Georgia Tech's future students.

3. How much student input will be in the current reorganization of Student Services? How much interaction do you as president have with these programs?

4. With the recent additions and cuts of vice presidents, I'm interested to know which vice presidents are reporting directly to you/and will or will not be in the near future?

The vice presidents who report to me are Michael Thomas, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Robert Thompson, senior vice president for Administration & Finance; Jim Langley, vice president of External Affairs; and Gail DiSabatino, interim vice president of Student Affairs.

When I arrived at Georgia Tech, I felt the vice president structure was top heavy. Now, I am pleased with the efficiency of the current structure and consider the reorganization process to be complete.

5. I've noticed that the Administration prefers to deal with SGA on student affairs. Although SGA is important it is not representative of the students. How will this be dealt with?

As an elected body, I feel that SGA is representative of the Georgia Tech student population. Like the American system, if you feel it is not, measures should be taken to ensure that better legislators are elected. While it is true that we frequently work with SGA, I have an open-door policy with students. Each year, I speak to many different student groups and meet with groups when possible. My e-mail address is well known to many students (wayne.clough@carnegie.gatech.edu), and students are welcome to address an issue to me via e-mail.

6. Do you see a more general class load placed on students once Tech converts to semesters and the major specific classes are absorbed into the general curriculum? How do you plan to combat this?

I do not think Tech's curriculum will become more general once we convert to semesters. In fact, I believe that the semester-length periods of study will offer more time for students and professors to explore diverse topics.

7. How will you work toward funding for the new Civil Engineering building?

Funding for the new building will come to us from a variety of sources, including Institute funds and private donations. For example, large private donors have gifted us with building supplies and equipment; however, it is up to us to fund the labor. Fund raising is on schedule and we anticipate the new building to be open by Fall 1997.

8. Who will be using the Aquatic Center?

Beginning in mid-Spring, the Aquatic Center will be open for faculty, staff, and students. Activities in the Aquatic Center will include recreational swim periods, Health Performance Sciences classes, and Options classes. Additional groups will be allowed to rent the Aquatic Center for both practices and sporting events. Beginning in the fall, the men's swimming and diving team will begin practicing and holding meets in the Center. Currently, the bubble pool is open and serves the campus.

9. When will the Campanile finally be finished?

The Campanile itself is complete, including Olympic restoration work. The Plaza area is 95 percent complete. ACOG is continuing to work on drainage issues and care of the larger trees.

10. Why do we have so many streets running parallel to each other instead of closing one or two to create parking or green space? (e.g. Ferst and Tech Parkway?)

A campus traffic manager will soon be hired. Part of his/her responsibilities will be to take a look at our current road structure and investigate better traffic management.

11. What is the most unexpected thing about being president of Georgia Tech?

12. Does the school intend to grow so far as the number of students?

According to the Institute Strategic Plan, by the year 2010, the Institute will enroll approximately 15,000 students. Although we will continue to grow through distance learning and continuing education, we do not wish the campus population to grow beyond this number as too much growth might hinder the quality of the Georgia Tech educational experience.

13. If the technology fee is not a raise in tuition, why do we have to pay for it?

The fee, just like the Student Activity fee, the Health fee, and the transportation fee is mandated by the Board of Regents and is an additional fee on top of tuition.

14. Do you think the punishment fit the crime in the SAE case when compared to what is going on at UGA? Although I am not sure what you are referring to at the University of Georgia, I am very comfortable with SAE's suspension and

probationary period. The safety of our students must come first, and in imposing sanctions on SAE, the Administration has shown that we will not tolerate activities which place our students in potential jeopardy.

15. Did you wear a rat cap?

16. Do you use a Mac or PC? PC.

(Questions that were answered during the Q & A)

1. Can you describe future campus expansion plans? (parking, playing fields, residences, etc.) A master plan for the campus is currently being constructed to oversee future campus construction. We are in the process of hiring a traffic manager to oversee the entire campus parking agenda. In addition, the Curran Street parking deck will soon be open and planning is underway for another parking deck. We are finished building residences halls and in the process of restoring playing fields to the way they were before the Olympics.

2. Georgia Tech students don't seem to feel a real sense of community. Is there anything the faculty, administration, or students themselves can do to improve this? Involvement is a key factor. The more involved in Tech activities a student becomes, the more he/she will feel a sense of community. I also believe the increased number of students living on campus will help bring about more of a sense of community. As for faculty and administration, we must continue to make ourselves available for students—either via a face-to-face or electronic basis.

3. Does the school intend to grow as far as the number of students?

According to the Strategic Plan developed over the last two years, the campus will not grow beyond 15,000 students as of the year 2010. Because we have worked hard to decrease the student/faculty ratio, we will take our growth slowly so that the student/faculty ratio decreases or remains constant. Although the number of students on campus will not rise very far, we do intend to grow through areas such as long-distance learning and continuing education.

4. What is your favorite Tech tradition? It's hard to name a favorite. I enjoy the Ramblin' Wreck parade and George P. Burdell's constant enrollment. I'm also very pleased that we resurrected the tradition of blowing the Whistle after a winning football game. That was one tradition that I missed.

5. Will Tech require students to own a certain type of computer?

At this time, it does not look like a certain computer will be required. However, the

Computer Ownership Committee has recommended that one specific system be required.

6. Was there a drastic increase in incoming freshmen due to the Olympics?

Applications were up this year; however, I do not believe we will see an increase due to the Olympics until next Fall.

7. There are still many problems with financial aid. Do you have any ideas to improve the bureaucracy? During the last few years the financial aid process has greatly improved. We continue to distribute Student Satisfaction Surveys to determine students' levels of satisfaction with the process and continue to implement change based on those surveys. Unfortunately, many of the most frequent complaints are related to federal and state loans—areas where federal and state red tape prohibit improvement.

8. The percentage of African-Americans freshmen this year was several percentages points less than that of Asian-Americans. Can you explain why this is?